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ROBERT MACNEIL: First tonight we return to the escalating dispute between London and Moscow over espionage. Last Thursday, in a major coup, Britain announced the defection of Moscow's top spy in London, Oleg Gordievski. The British expelled 25 Soviet diplomats and journalists as spies. Moscow responded by expelling 25 British citizens. And today London retaliated by kicking out six more. The British said Gordievski had identified all of them as spies.

To look further at the story, we have George Carver, senior fellow at the Georgetown University Center for Strategic and International Studies. Mr. Carver spent 26 years with the CIA, was their top man in Germany, and had extensive experience with situations like this.

Mr. Carver, first of all today's news. Six more expulsions out of the Soviet personnel in London, a total embassy staff of 210. Would that likely to be all the Soviet people, on past performance, out of an embassy staff, who would be engaging in some form of intelligence-gathering?

GEORGE CARVER: Oh, no. The actual number would be considerably larger than that. This is basically the ping-pong ball bouncing back and forth. General Secretary Gorbachev took a very hard line on this, much harder than he took -- than was taken with Great Britain in 1971, or France in 1983. And essentially, he told Prime Minister Thatcher to stick it in her ear. And she is a very tough lady and a very strong Prime Minister, and she has indicated her displeasure at their action. And this is going to unfold for two or three more rounds before it's over.

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